ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BEYOND 2018: REPORT FROM THE COUNTRY GRANTS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

For Decision

1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to request the Board of Directors to mandate the Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC), in consultation with the Country Grants and Performance Committee (CGPC), to develop options for the Board's consideration for GPE support to civil society beyond the newly approved Civil Society Education Fund 2016-2018.

2. REQUESTED DECISION

2.1 Following discussion and approval of the Civil Society Education Fund 2016-2018 at its October 27-29, 2015 meeting, the CGPC recommends the following decision to the Board:

BOD/2015/12-XX – **Engagement with Civil Society Beyond 2018**: The Board of Directors requests the Strategy and Policy Committee, in consultation with the Country Grants and Performance Committee, to review the lessons learned from the process of developing and approving the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) program 2016-2018, and, taking into account this process, the findings of the independent evaluation of the CSEF, and the GPE Strategic Plan 2016-2020, develop timely options for the Board's consideration on the future direction and process for engagement with civil society beyond 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 During its meeting on October 27-29, 2015, the CGPC considered and approved the proposal from the Global Campaign for Education for the Civil Society Education Fund 2016-2018 (CGPC/2015/10-01).

3.2 During the discussion, the Committee recalled the complexities in guiding and approving the CSEF 2016-2018, caused in part by two different committees having been involved in first the development (SPC) and subsequently the review of the proposal (CGPC). This led to some confusion

and delayed the application process, resulting in the need for an extension of the previous program to avoid a break in funding (BOD/2015/05 DOC 05).

3.3 The Committee further noted the fact that many of the 62 national coalitions eligible for CSEF funding are heavily reliant on the CSEF grants for their operations; for some it is their only source of funding. This creates a risk to the sustainability of the programs the coalitions are conducting.

3.4 In order to mitigate this, the Committee in its approval of the CSEF 2016-2018 requested the Secretariat to work with GCE to report back to the CGPC on an annual basis on the efforts made by organizations supported by the CSEF to diversify their funding sources and become less dependent on the Global Partnership.

3.5 While GCE is doing its part in mitigating the sustainability issue at the country level, the Committee recommends the Board mitigate the risk at the global level and start the process of an early determination of the future direction and process for engagement with civil society beyond 2018. Accordingly, SPC, in consultation with the CGPC, is best placed to consider the findings from the evaluation of the current CSEF as well as the directions of the new GPE strategic plan, and develop options for the Board's consideration.

4. PLEASE CONTACT: Charles Tapp (ctapp@globalpartnership.org) or Padraig Power (ppower@globalpartnership.org) for further information.

5. ANNEXES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Additional background information is available in CGPC/2015/10 DOC 05 on the Committee eTeam site.